

# Appendix D: Attestation Engagements

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Guide for Conducting External Peer  
Reviews of the Audit Organizations of  
Federal Offices of Inspector General



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(Updated November 2012 – See inside  
of cover for additional details)

# Attestation Engagements Review

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- GAGAS Chapter 6
- AICPA Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements
  - For additional guidance, see AICPA's peer review checklists for attestation engagements at [aicpa.org/members/div/practmon/systemreview.asp](http://aicpa.org/members/div/practmon/systemreview.asp)
- Review the OIG's attest policies and procedures

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- Keep in mind
  - There are 3 types of attestation engagements with different requirements as to type
    - ✓ Examinations—express opinion
    - ✓ Reviews—express conclusion
    - ✓ Agreed-upon procedures—issue a report
  - Auditors performing attestation engagements should comply with the AICPA general standard for criteria, the fieldwork and reporting standards, and the corresponding SSAEs. These are incorporated in GAGAS by reference.

# Attestation Engagements Review

| This is the step      | What peer reviewer is looking for?  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Independence          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Conceptual Framework – Evaluate threats and safeguards? The auditor’s evaluation must be documented. Professional judgment is used to evaluate threats and safeguards.</li> <li>➤ Conflicts resolved?</li> <li>➤ Modify GAGAS statement?</li> <li>➤ After report?</li> </ul> |
| Professional Judgment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Planning, Performing, Reporting?</li> <li>➤ Reasonable care &amp; professional skepticism?</li> <li>➤ Ethical principles?</li> <li>➤ Document significant decisions?</li> </ul>  |
| Competence            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Education, experience, &amp; skills?</li> <li>➤ Knowledgeable subject matter &amp; criteria?</li> <li>➤ Met CPE requirements?</li> <li>➤ Qualifications of specialists? Different CPE requirements for internal and external specialists.</li> </ul>                         |

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| This is the step          | What peer reviewer is looking for?   |
|---------------------------|--|
| Quality Control           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Relied on another audit organization's work?</li> <li>➤ Ext QC report &amp; letter of comments?</li> </ul>  |
| Criteria (AICPA standard) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Suitable – objective, measurable, complete &amp; relevant?</li> <li>➤ Available – publicly, clear, understood?</li> </ul>   |
| Field Work                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Considered in planning?</li> <li>➤ Services to be performed?</li> <li>➤ Prior engagements?</li> <li>➤ Sufficient understanding of IC (E)?</li> <li>➤ Design for fraud (E)? Material effect on engagement (R/AUP)?</li> <li>➤ Extend steps (R/AUP)?</li> </ul> |

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| This is the step       | What peer reviewer is looking for?  |
|------------------------|---|
| Field Work (Continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Abuse effect on subject matter (All)?</li><li>➤ Findings – C/C/E? Documentation sufficient?</li><li>➤ Dependent on IT?</li><li>➤ Plans nature, timing, extent of testing?</li><li>➤ Written representations from management?</li><li>➤ GAGAS compliance?</li><li>➤ Departures impact on conclusions and engagement?</li></ul> |

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| This is the step | What peer reviewer is looking for?   |
|------------------|--|
| Reporting        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Conformance with AICPA standards?</li><li>➤ Assertion?</li><li>➤ Character of engagement?</li><li>➤ Conclusion vs criteria?</li><li>➤ Significant reservations?</li><li>➤ Intended for use by specific parties?</li><li>➤ GAGAS compliance statement?</li><li>➤ Modified scope, reasons, affect?</li></ul> |

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| This is the step      | What peer reviewer is looking for?  |
|-----------------------|---|
| Reporting (continued) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Reports report</li> <li>➤ significant deficiencies</li> <li>➤ instances of fraud or illegal acts</li> <li>➤ violations of contracts or grant agreements</li> <li>➤ instances of abuse</li> <li>➤ IC deficiencies</li> <li>➤ known or likely fraud, illegal acts, violations, or abuse</li> <li>➤ findings iaw GAGAS guidance</li> <li>➤ views of responsible officials &amp; planned corrective actions</li> </ul> |

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| This is the step            | What peer reviewer is looking for?   |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Reporting (continued)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Reports report</li><li>➤ identify validity, modify report, explain disagreements</li><li>➤ explain omissions (confidential/sensitive)</li><li>➤ submit to oversight and governance orgs, responsible officials</li></ul> |
| OIG Policies and Procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Follow OIG's QC policies &amp; procedures</li><li>➤ Use checklists?</li><li>➤ Independent report referencing?</li></ul>  |

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If the reviewer concludes that the attestation engagement met professional standards, inadequate policies and procedures or noncompliance by the auditors with policies and procedures would ordinarily be reported as a finding in the Letter of Comment and not impact the peer review rating.